

Message Text

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R 111844Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4326
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 690

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR SGEN XL
SUBJ: 1979 SUPER BOWL AND CHIEFS OF STATE

REF: STATE 118890

1. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF US RELATIONS WITH SURINAM, I
URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT STAY CLEAR OF ANY CONNECTION WITH
AN INVITATION FROM THE NFL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY
TO ATTEND THE 1979 SUPER BOWL IN MIAMI.

2. IT IS CLEAR (AT LEAST SEEM SO TO ME) FROM REFTTEL THAT
THE NFL IS THINKING OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS ENTERTAINMENT
GIMMICK WHEREBY THE PRESENCE, IF ANY COME, OF CARIBBEAN
CHIEFS OF STATE AT THE GAME WOULD BE USED TO FURTHER THE
PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE EVENT. I CANNOT ARGUE WITH THE
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LOGIC OF THIS IDEA FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PROMOTERS,
BUT I DO ARGUE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD
NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AN APPROACH AND SHOULD, IF
ASKED, POINT OUT THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS. THE VERY IDEA THAT
YOU GO TO THE PRESIDENT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND INVITE HIM
TO COME ALL THE WAY TO MIAMI TO LEND HIS PRESTIGE TO A
SPORTING EVENT TO BE ATTENDED BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE,

BUT THEN CAUTION HIM THAT HE CAN HAVE NO MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR TICKETS, IS INDICATIVE OF AN APPROACH THAT I THINK THE PRESIDENT OF SURINAM WOULD CONSIDER BENEATH HIS DIGNITY.

3. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF SURINAM IS NOT LIKELY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES FOR ANY PURPOSE UNTIL AND UNLESS HE HAS FIRST BEEN INVITED TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT FERRIER IS NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPRESSED BY "THE DEGREE OF EXPOSURE" EVEN IF IT IS "CONSIDERABLE" AT THE SUPER BOWL; QUITE THE CONTRARY, AN INVITATION TO SUCH AN EVENT WOULD ONLY HIGHLIGHT FOR HIM THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN INVITED BY THE US GOVERNMENT TO COME TO WASHINGTON, AND WOULD THUS BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

4. THERE ARE POLICE AND ARMY BANDS IN SURINAM THAT PLAY WHILE MARCHING, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE KIND OF COLOFUL, HIGH-STEPPING, INTRICATE-PATTERN BANDS THAT WE ASSOCIATE WITH FOOTBALL GAMES. MOREOVER, FOR THE GOS TO PAY THEIR WAY TO MIAMI WOULD RUN INTO PUBLIC CRITICISM HERE AT A TIME WHEN THE GOS IS HAVING TO BORROW MONEY ABROAD FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW OF ANY "WORLD CLASS" ATHLETES IN OR FROM SURINAM OR LOCAL ENTERTAINERS WHOM IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INVITE.
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6. THE ABOVE IS NOT MEANT TO BE NEGATIVE ON THE IDEA OF HAVING A CARIBBEAN THEME AT THE SUPER BOWL. WE AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, AND SHOULD HELP TO POPULARIZE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH THE US HAS WITH (MOST OF) THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AREA. BUT THIS IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS-TOURISM PROJECT AND SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS SUCH, AND WE SHOULD NOT REDUCE THE POSITION OF CHIEFS OF STATE IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO THAT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS ATTRACTIONS, ANY MORE THAN WE WOULD APPRECIATE OTHER COUNTRIES DOING THAT TO OUR PRESIDENT.
ZURHELLEN

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